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Vietnam Peace

To the Editor of The Inquirer:

The recent Central Intelligence Agency paper which expressed "serious doubts" concerning a military victory in Vietnam and predicted "a negotiated settlement based upon neutralization" has been disavowed by the State Department. A spokesman said "it is not nor does it purport to be a statement of policy." Perhaps if the words "at this moment" were added, the apparent conflict would be clarified.

President Johnson assured the Congress that he "was ready to explore any avenues of political solution" in Vietnam when he requested that Resolution aptly described by Senator Morse as a pre-dated declaration of war. Does the President feel compelled to match Goldwater's militancy by posing as a hawk at the same time that he yearns to embrace the dove of peace? Could the CIA paper be a trial balloon released in this precarious pre-election period to measure the direction of public opinion before the U. S. seeks a diplomatic conclusion to the hopeless civil war in Vietnam?

If so, this is the time for concerned citizens to write to President Johnson, indicating support for a new American policy of negotiation for a peaceful settlement.

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